

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of draining and venting the permeate gases from a flexible tubular pipe[[,]] ~~especially one~~ for transporting hydrocarbons, ~~said wherein the~~ flexible tubular pipe ~~comprising~~ comprises

at least one internal pressure sheath (14) suitable for ~~conveying said~~ transporting the hydrocarbons, whereby permeate gases contained in ~~said the~~ hydrocarbons ~~being~~ are liable to diffuse through the wall of ~~said the~~ internal pressure sheath (14), ~~and comprising~~

an external sheath around the internal sheath; (24) and

at least one ~~or more~~ reinforcing plies (16, 18, 20) ply located in an annular region (23) lying between ~~said the~~ external sheath (24) and ~~said the~~ internal pressure sheath (14), ~~said, the~~ annular region (23) having, along ~~said the~~ reinforcing plies, flow paths along which ~~said the~~ permeate gases can flow toward ~~venting means;~~ a vent for venting the permeate gases;

the method comprising:

~~characterized in that~~ injecting an entrainment gas ~~is injected~~ under pressure into ~~said the~~ annular region (23), and along ~~said the~~ flow paths, ~~in order~~ to force ~~said the~~ permeate gases to flow along ~~said the~~ flow paths toward ~~said venting means~~ the vent; and

operating the vent ~~in that said venting means are suitable~~ for venting ~~said the~~ permeate gases out of ~~said the~~ annular region (23) and toward the outside of ~~said the~~ flexible tubular pipe.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of draining and venting permeate gases as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~characterized in that said~~ entrainment gas is injected into a plurality of injection regions spaced apart longitudinally in ~~said the~~ annular region of ~~said the~~ flexible tubular pipe.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of draining and venting permeate gases as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein the or 2, characterized in that~~ said entrainment gas is injected at one of the ends of ~~said~~ the flexible tubular pipe.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of draining and venting permeate gases as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein a nitrogen-containing gas is injected.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of draining and venting permeate gases as claimed in claim 1, ~~further comprising creating~~ characterized in that the flow ~~is created~~ by sucking the ~~said~~ permeate gases out from at least one suction region inside ~~said~~ the annular region ~~in order~~ to force ~~said~~ the permeate gases to flow.

6. (Currently Amended) A flexible tubular pipe for transporting hydrocarbons, comprising at least one internal pressure sheath (14) suitable for conveying ~~said~~ the hydrocarbons, the sheath being such that permeate gases contained in ~~said~~ the hydrocarbons ~~being~~ are liable to diffuse through the ~~wall of said~~ internal pressure sheath; (14), ~~and comprising~~

an external sheath around the internal sheath and defining an annular region between the sheaths; at least (24) and one or more reinforcing plies (16, 18, 20) ply located in an the annular region (23) lying between ~~said~~ the external sheath (24) and ~~said~~ the internal pressure sheath (14), ~~said~~ the annular region (23) having, along ~~said~~ the reinforcing plies, flow paths along which ~~said~~ the permeate gases can flow ~~toward and~~

~~venting means~~ a vent toward which the permeate gases flow;[[,]] ~~characterized in that it includes~~

at least one supply line emerging in ~~said~~ the annular region (23) for supplying pressurized entrainment gas in order to force the ~~said~~ permeate gases in ~~said~~ the annular region to flow along ~~said~~ the flow paths toward ~~said~~ venting means the vent and ~~in that said venting means are~~ the vent is

suitable for venting ~~said the~~ permeate gases out of ~~said the~~ annular region (23) and toward the outside of ~~said the~~ flexible tubular pipe.

7. (Currently Amended) The flexible tubular pipe as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that said wherein the~~ supply line (22, 25, 32, 34, 36) lying in the annular region ~~has includes~~ drilled injection holes (38, 40) spaced apart so as to form a plurality of injection regions spaced longitudinally along ~~said the~~ flexible tubular pipe.

8. (Currently Amended) The flexible tubular pipe as claimed in claim 6, further comprising ~~or 7, characterized in that said means for forcing said permeate gases to flow include a~~ pressurized-nitrogen supply connected to the supply line for forcing the permeate gases to flow.

9. (Currently Amended) The flexible tubular pipe as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that said means~~ further comprising a device operable for forcing ~~said the~~ permeate gases to diffuse include a suction pump for sucking ~~said the~~ permeate gases into ~~said the~~ flow paths in at least one suction region of ~~said the~~ annular region.

10. (Currently Amended) The flexible tubular pipe as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9,~~ ~~characterized in that said venting means consist of~~ claim 6, wherein the vent comprises differential valves ~~suitable~~ operable for venting the gases by the pressure difference between ~~said the~~ annular region and the outside.